

COMMUNITY NEWS



MEMBERS OF GIRL SCOUT TROOP #300 assisted the Lions Club during last Saturday's Pancake Day. Girl Scout Melanie Mularz is shown cleaning a table after supporters finish their meal. Among their duties, the girl scouts greeted people, helped carry plates and cleaned the tables.

Exciting Accessories to Enhance your home and Assure Entertaining in Style!

COME BROWSE BRIAR PATCH

20 % Off

New GODINGER Crystal & Silver Merchandise

Bridal Registry
Reanne McCullough & Courtney Day
Shower Date: TBA - Wedding: May 20th
Ashley (Harmon) Arnold & Brandon Arnold
Bethany Dye & Carter Akrude
Shower Date: March 19 - Wedding: April 22
Katie (Crown) Parish & Jamie Parish
Shower Date: March 12
Krysti Owens & Shane Blanton
Shower Date: TBA - Wedding: July 29

All At

BRIAR PATCH GARDEN AND GIFT SHOPPE
On The Square Downtown Elba
807-8591

New
Tabletop Gift Accessories

New From Provence France
Baudouine
Soap & Body Care Products

TO GO PLEASE...For those in a hurry or unable to eat there, the pancake breakfast was able to accommodate. Above, Keith Grantham is shown fixing a to go plate for his wife, Leslie.

Attend the church of your choice this Sunday!

Volunteers offer free tax help, make sure filers get tax credits

Working on your tax return? Need some help? It may be as close as your neighborhood library or community center.

The Internal Revenue Service has hundreds of trained volunteers who are staffing tax help sites across Alabama. Taxpayers whose household income is below \$38,000 and who file a fairly simple tax return can have their returns prepared free at any of these sites, most of which also offer e-filing.

"These dedicated volunteers give their time to make sure people get all the proper tax credits and deductions, like the Earned Income Tax Credit," said IRS spokesman Dan Boone.

Boone said the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) can greatly increase the refund many tax filers get, but thousands who are eligible for the credit fail to claim it each year. "Last year, 470,463 Alabama families claimed more than \$995 million in EITC," Boone said. "Our volunteers are trained to identify others who are eligible and can benefit from this tax credit."

The maximum EITC amount for 2005 has increased to \$1,040.

Spring concerts showcase vocal talents at Troy

TROY University will be hosting a variety of choral concerts throughout the spring semester.

The Choral Masterwork Festival will be March 11 at 7:30 p.m. and March 12 at 3 p.m. at the TROY Montgomery Campus Davis Theatre.

The festival features professional, community, and student singers and instrumentalists in recreating *Creation*, by the classical composer Franz Joseph Haydn, who is a contemporary of Mozart and Beethoven.

The music of this festival is upbeat, optimistic, and humorous, as well as beautiful.

In contrast to the large per-

forming forces of the Choral Masterwork Festival, the Choral Chamber Concert will be April 3 at 7:30 p.m. in Hawkins-Adams Long Hall of Honor on the Troy Campus.

The Chamber Concert is under the direction of Dr. Diane Orlofsky, conductor of the Chamber Choir, which according to Dr. Orlofsky is "a traditional, mixed vocal chamber group that is on the small side and focus on the SATB (soprano, alto, tenor, bass) and Mozart and Beethoven."

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EDITORIAL

BRAINSTORMS
With Ferrin Cox

"Sometimes we should keep our mouths shut just for the sake of common decency." That is a quote lifted from a daily paper opinion piece of several weeks ago. The subject was the 12 cartoons published by a Danish newspaper, featuring Islam's Prophet Mohammed in ways which offended many, many Muslims. The continuing fallout from those cartoons has included demonstrations, riots and killings. Often those dying are killed by the hand of fellow protesters, which is another confusing puzzle to many of us Americans. Our position on those cartoons apparently doesn't follow along with the opinions of the world's population. The first publishing was *Posten* of the Press in its newest form, but obviously considered in bad taste by millions. The follow up printing of the offensive cartoons all around the world were harsh and rude. All freedom of speech with a heightened social responsibility. Those flaming it so badly maybe don't deserve the freedom, or at least are abusing the very privilege that they enjoy and claim to be upholding. Remember . . . "Sometimes we should keep our mouths shut just for the sake of common decency." We could add "and in defense of our cherished freedoms."

On February 9th, right in the middle of the church arson fires, we voiced the following opinion. "When the dust settles, arrests are made, etc., it will just be a bunch of red neck outlaw types. It is a group out for what they think is a fun evening with a few beers and some loud laughs. All because they think their actions are funny and/or give them a sense of power." Now arrests have been made and . . . yep . . . it was three guys enjoying their version of fun. There is also suspicion that alcohol was involved. The professionals who try to understand human thinking still want to tack some "hate" motive to the arson, but the branchheads of South Alabama, we just call it meanness. Meanwhile their parents (apparently all good folks) will surely explain it as young folks having fun that got out of hand.

The weather was beautiful during the past weekend. Saturday afternoon walking the levee was the route of choice for getting to the Clipper office. It was so nice, warm and a brisk breeze in the face, we walked on around the old post office . . . just enjoying life. Sunday night the moon was beautiful, the stars shinning and Hiedy and yours truly again walked to town, just enjoying the weather, and life itself.

Politics are beginning to heat up. It was relatively calm as the Republicans started qualifying several weeks ago. Last week statewide Democrats got the chance to sign up and various local counties have kicked in since then. In Coffee County, Tuesday night was the magic start date for paying their qualifying fees. Citizens can enter elections and place for support to mushroom as their election day approaches. Each of us has, or will develop opinions. That is as it should be. However in recent years those opinions have taken on a far more dangerous face. More and more, all across the nation, voters are expressing hateful words to and about those other voters who voice a differing opinion. Be nice and remind us to do likewise.

Elba Police Report

The Elba Police Department, beginning Monday, Mar. 6, 2006, investigated the following incidents: one burglary, three for theft of property, one abandoned vehicle, one theft of services, two for criminal trespassing, one driving under the influence, one unauthorized use of a vehicle, one duty to remain at the scene and one domestic violence.

The following arrests were made: two for possession of a controlled substance, one for theft of property and one for failure to appear.

Traffic citations issued during the week were as follows: one for no driver's license, two for speeding and one for no insurance.

Daily activity highlights for the week were as follows:

MONDAY, MAR. 6 - Coffee County EMS dispatched to the post office parking lot (11:28 a.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to 1496 County Rd. 210 (11:32 a.m.); Minor wreck reported at the intersection of Reynolds and Martin Luther King Dr. (4:46 p.m.); Domestic disturbance reported at 1195 Claxton Ave. (9:40 p.m.).

TUESDAY, MAR. 7 - Three-vehicle wreck reported at the intersection of Hwy. 203 and Claxton Ave. (9:37 a.m.).

WEDNESDAY, MAR. 8 - Two-vehicle wreck reported at the intersection of Parrish and Claxton Ave. (1:44 p.m.); Elba Fire Department dispatched to a trailer fire on County Rd. 203 (9:42 p.m.).

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES
Coffee County & Surrounding Counties - \$21 per year
6 Months - \$11, including city & state tax
Alabama Counties - \$24 per year - including tax
6 months - \$13
Outside Alabama - \$27 per year - 6 months - \$15

Uniform drive underway for Elba Marching Tiger Band

A drive is underway to buy new uniforms for the award-winning Elba Marching Tiger Band.

The current uniforms are at



the end of a seven year run and are definitely showing signs of wear and tear. Through the continued support of the community, the Elba Band Boosters have saved almost \$30,000 toward the uniform goal of \$45,500. This currently leaves the organization \$15,500 short of the goal.

The band boosters now are asking anyone who can to purchase a uniform. A complete uniform costs \$365.

With the purchase of a complete uniform, a donor label will be placed inside the jacket. This way, each band member will know who provided their uniform.

Besides individuals, the boosters are calling on other organizations such as Sunday School classes, clubs, alumni groups, etc. to help achieve the uniform goal. A complete list of donors will be included in the 2006 football program.

Please consider making a contribution today. All donations are tax deductible and can be made at several locations including Elba High School, The Peoples Bank and Wachovia Bank.

Checks should be mailed to Elba High School, 371 Tiger Drive, Elba, AL 36323. Checks should be made payable to Elba High School and noted Band Uniform Account.

The uniform drive will run

Internet

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• 10 e-mail addresses with Webmail
• Cool Games Page - news, weather & more!
Surf up to 6X faster!
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through Thursday, April 6, and an announcement of proceeds will be made Saturday, April 15, at the annual Band Day on the square in Elba.

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LIFESTYLES

Miss Amanda Calhoun honored with miscellaneous bridal shower on Sunday, March 5th



L to R front row: Mrs. Martha Martin, Mrs. Frances Vaughan, Mrs. Mildred Bozeman, Mrs. Edith Calhoun; second row: Mrs. Marie Martin, Miss Amanda Calhoun-honoree and Mrs. Margaret Calhoun

University of Mobile invites students to Junior Preview Day

You are cordially invited to attend a reception in honor of Elmer and Grace Taylor on Saturday, March 18, 2006 From 3:00 to 5:00 in the afternoon at The Old South Inn 717 West Davis St, Elba

Mr. and Mrs. Taylor will be moving to Auburn soon.

The University of Mobile invites high school juniors to visit the private Christian university campus in south Alabama for Junior Preview Day on Saturday, April 8. Students and their parents should register for the preview day by Wednesday, April 5. An RSVP form is available on the website at www.umb.edu or students may call the UMO Office of Admissions at (800) 946-7267 or (251) 442-2273.

Students and parents attending Junior Preview Day will tour the University of Mobile campus; see the new residence halls; meet current students, faculty and staff; and learn about college preparation, financial aid, selecting a major, and more.

The University of Mobile offers majors in the College of Arts and Sciences and the schools of business, Christian studies, education and nursing.

Hostesses for the occasion were Mrs. Jean Helms, Mrs. Harriette Boyd, Mrs. Neddy Cox, Mrs. Dixie Davis, Mrs. Lucia Grantham, Mrs. Vernette Maddox, Mrs. Elaine Martin, Mrs. Gwen Mulinax, Mrs. Sylvia Padgett, Mrs. Freddie Pearce, Mrs. Frances Prior, Mrs. Melanie Roberson, Mrs. Kathy Smith, Mrs. Sara Smith, Mrs. Linda Stephens, and Mrs. Sara Strong.

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FUTURE LITTLE MISS ELBA... The 2006 Miss Elba pageants were held Saturday evening, March 4, from the Elba High School auditorium. In the Future Little Miss Elba category (from left) Sadi Boswell was named first runner up; Hailey Parish was crowned Future Little Miss Elba; and Kymberly Bimbo was named second runner up.



LITTLE MISS ELBA... The 2006 Miss Elba pageants were held Saturday evening, March 4, from the Elba High School auditorium. In the Little Miss Elba category (from left) Maddie Chandler was crowned Little Miss Elba and Gabi Hernandez was named first runner up.



JUNIOR MISS ELBA... The 2006 Miss Elba pageants were held Saturday evening, March 4, from the Elba High School auditorium. In the Junior Miss Elba category (from left) Corin Lee was named first runner up; Meagan Anderson was crowned Junior Miss Elba; and Lindsay McClung was named second runner up.



MISS ELBA... The 2006 Miss Elba pageants were held Saturday evening, March 4, from the Elba High School auditorium. In the Miss Elba category (from left) Brittany Hudson was named second runner up; Lauren McClung was crowned Miss Elba; and Christina Bryant was named first runner up.

MARCH TO QUINCY'S 777 AND WIN RIC!

Throughout
March win
cash, plasma
TVs, computers,
a new bass boat
and a Hummer!

March is prize-packed at Quincy's Triple Seven.
So don't miss a minute. Every day you visit, you can register
to win our exciting Hummer. Plus, check out our other big
giveaways!

**Cash Giveaways every Monday, Tuesday and
Wednesday starting March 13!**

Mondays—Enter the \$5,000 winner-take-all cash drawing to be held at 10:00 p.m. Plus, earn double QClub points.

Tuesdays—Enter cash drawings starting at 6:00 p.m. for 12 \$250 jackpots and nine \$500 jackpots. Plus, receive double QClub points.

Wednesdays—Enter cash drawings starting at 6:00 p.m. for 12 \$250 jackpots and nine \$500 jackpots, then at 11:45 p.m. for a \$1,000 jackpot and at midnight a \$1,500 jackpot! Plus, receive double QClub points.



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You must be present at time of giveaway to win prizes and cash jackpots. Limit one entry per person per day. Entries accepted 7 days a week for bass boat and Hummer giveaways. Entries for other prizes restricted to day of giveaway only. For full details visit www.Quincys777.com

Super Thursdays!

Thursday, March 16—Enter big prize drawings for a Dell Computer Package (\$1,500 value) at 8:00 p.m., a 42" Plasma HD TV (\$2,500 value) at 9:00 p.m. and a \$15,000 winner-take-all cash jackpot at 10:00 p.m.! Plus, receive double QClub points.

Win a deluxe Bass Boat and more!

Thursday, March 23—Enter big prize drawings for a Dell Computer Package (\$1,500 value) at 8:00 p.m., a 42" Plasma HD TV (\$2,500 value) at 9:00 p.m. and a brand new deluxe bass boat (\$25,000 value) at 10:00 p.m.! Plus, receive double QClub points.

Win a Hummer!

Thursday, March 30—Enter big prize drawings for a Dell Computer Package (\$1,500 value) at 8:00 p.m., a 42" Plasma HD TV (\$2,500 value) at 9:00 p.m. and a spectacular Hummer at 10:00 p.m.! Plus, receive double QClub points.

Win a brand new deluxe
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SPORTS

Views from....

The Pressbox

By Ricky Mularz, Sports Editor

Our oldest daughter turned twenty-three last week, and while it is true that time flies, it seems almost impossible that one of my baby girls is really that old. It seems like just weeks ago that my wife went for a check-up and a few hours later Melissa came into the world, and I still look back and remember all the days we played ball in the yard and later hit my nails as I taught her how to drive. I know all children look forward to growing up and being on their own. However, this "ole Dad still wishes the world would stop spinning so fast and give me many more years to be with my daughters they are still young.

ONCE OVER LIGHTLY...

*** The Elba Tiger baseball team saw its schedule washed out by rain last week, and while the players and coaches always want to play, maybe it was good for the team to get away from the field for a few days. The Tigers have yet to win, and losses can be very frustrating for players that expect to win every time they take the field. There is still a lot of baseball left this season and before long I am confident last week's run-outs will be looked upon as a well-needed rest.

*** The Elba Lady Tigers moved their record to 5-3 last week and continued to be one of the most competitive teams in the area. The Elba girls dropped games to Andalusia and Samson in a tournament, but everyone in attendance was impressed with the Lady Tigers skills and I am sure most of the coaches at the event would look forward to taking the field against the girls in black and gold. The sport of fast-pitch softball has become very competitive very fast, and there are no longer any easy wins on anyone's schedule. So, the season should still be filled with lots of excitement.

*** A quick look around the country revealed it is also an exciting spring for baseball and softball teams from surrounding towns. Down at Kinston, the Bulldogs have struggled a little as they have looked to put the pieces together before area play, while the Lady Bulldogs have been as good as expected and are a true state title contender. Over at New Brockton, the Gamecocks have been the surprise of the young season as they have rolled over any and all challengers and have posted big numbers, while the Lady Gamecocks have struggled, but will no doubt get some wins as the season progresses. Up at Zion Chapel, the Rebels have struggled at times as they have tried to find the right line-ups and the right combination, while on the softball field the Lady Rebels have made it known they will back down from no one on their schedule and have some big wins.

*** March Madness will officially tip-off this week when the NCAA begins its tournament, and for many of us it means long nights watching basketball games from across the nation and trying to keep up with the brackets. I don't think the SEC has any teams that can make a serious run at the title, but will watch the conference teams as long as they are alive, and will also pay attention to some of the teams I have grown fond of over the year, such as Syracuse and Michigan State. I don't think I will catch the madness, but it will make its way into the den.

*** The Alabama High School Activities Association announced last week its plans to host the "Champions Challenge" in August and pit the state champs in football from a year ago in what they will become a popular and financially successful venture. UMS-Wright and Hoover have already agreed to meet on Aug. 26 in a 5A vs. 6A showdown, while also taking part in a 1A vs. 2A battle will be Addison and Clay County, Homewood and Pike County, who chose not to participate in the season opener, which will be held at Cramton Bowl, in Montgomery, and will be televised statewide. The state's all-star games have had little success in the pocket book over the year, but maybe this will work and just the fact it will be held in Montgomery is good news to me.

*** In closing... the youth baseball season is still a few weeks away, but the Elba leagues have already been awarded three tournaments. The Dixie Youth League has been chosen to host the District Tournament, which will mean an automatic berth in the event for Elba All-Stars, while the Dixie Boys League has been picked to host Sub-District Tournaments in both the 13 and 14-year-old age divisions. Looks like a very exciting summer ahead for the players and coaches in the baseball leagues.

Up record to 3-1

Elba Lady Tigers roll past New Brockton 12-2 in five inning win

The Elba Lady Tigers hosted the New Brockton Lady Gamecocks last Monday afternoon and pulled away late to claim a big 12-2 victory as they improved their record to 3-1 on the young season.

Elba jumped out to an early 3-0 in the bottom of the first inning thanks to a double off the bat of Whitney Lawford and RBI singles by Melanie Mularz and Michelle Aruz, only to see New Brockton plate a single run in the third to cut the lead to 3-1.

The Lady Tigers responded in their half of the inning and scored four runs to stretch their lead to 7-1. Melanie Mularz added a two-out error and Stephanie Baxley walked to set the stage for the Elba rally, while Whitney Lawford, Michelle Aruz and Kayla Miller all delivered key singles.

The Lady Gamecocks cut the lead to 7-2 at the top of the fourth thanks to two Elba errors, but the Lady Tigers again

In prep baseball action

Elba Tiger JV improve record to 7-3

The Elba Tiger junior varsity baseball team has enjoyed a busy spring on the diamond as they have rolled to a 7-3 record.

Following are highlights of the season's action:

Highland 6 Elba 3

The Tigers opened the game with a 6-3 lead back to the Highland Hornet Flying Squadron. Elba jumped out to an early 1-0 lead in the bottom of the first inning when Justin Mallory reached a one-out walk and later scored on a two-out hit by Andrew Head. In the third thanks to two walks, two free passes and a key single by Justin McLaughlin, Highland Home combined three hits with two walks and two errors to grab the lead at 6-3 in the fourth, and Elba stranded three base-runners in the final two innings as they were tagged with the loss. Justin Mallory later scored on a two-out hit by Sandarius Reed and Justin Mallory both scored 1 run.

Elba 12 Kinston 8 - The Tigers pulled ahead early and held on late to squeeze past the Kinston Bulldogs 12-8. Back-to-back doubles by Kyle Pope and Justin McLaughlin sparked a three-run first inning for the Tigers, while Elba added four runs in the bottom of the second behind the hitting of Sandarius Reed and Justin Mallory to stretch its lead to 7-2. Three walks and one error helped the Tigers up their lead to 9-2 in the third, while a single by Colton Vaughan and an RBI double by Andrew Head pushed the Elba lead to 10-2 in the fourth. Kinston plated four runs in the fifth and two in the sixth to pull within 10-8, but Elba scored two runs in its half of the sixth behind the hitting of Brock Lambert and Colton Vaughan to preserve the win. Colton Vaughan had 3 hits, scored 2 runs and knocked in 3 runs to lead Elba at the plate, while Shane Spurlin and Brock Lambert both added 1 hit. No pitching records were available.

Elba 16 Highland Home 1 - The Tigers suffered their second straight loss as they were outscored by the Goshen Eagles 16-1. Andrew Head delivered an RBI single in the bottom of the fifth to pull Elba within 3-1, while the Tigers plated four runs in the third to take a 3-2 lead. Consecutive singles by Sandarius Reed, Justin Mallory and Justin McLaughlin all added 1 hit and scored 2 runs. Also adding to the lead were Andrew Head, Brock Lambert and Devin Jackson. Justin Mallory pitched two innings and allowed two runs on five hits and with five strike-outs.

Goshen 10 Elba 9 - The Tigers salvaged a split of the double-opening double-header by the Goshen Highland Home 16-1 in the nightcap. Highland Home jumped out to a quick 3-0 lead in the first, but this time the Tigers answered and took the lead as they took advantage of two walks, two hit batters and a clutch single by Brock Lambert to grab a 4-3 lead. Highland Home pulled even at 4-4 in the second, but Elba again refused to stay behind this time plated six runs to take a 10-4 lead! Three errors helped the Tiger rally, while Sandarius Reed and Aaron Drewey both came through with key hits. Elba added two runs in the third to move ahead 12-4 and carried a 16-6 lead into the fifth, only to be forced to extinguish a late Highland Home rally to pull out the win. Brock Lambert had 2 hits to lead Elba at the plate, while Sandarius Reed, Justin Mallory, Kyle Pope, Aaron Drewey, Devin Jackson and Jantzen Flowers all added 1 hit. Reed scored 4 runs to aid the Elba outburst and Mallory and Pope both scored 3 runs. Justin Mallory pitched four innings and allowed 6 runs on 4 hits, with 3 strike-outs, while Kyle Pope pitched one inning and allowed five runs on six hits and struck out two batters.

Elba 1 Highland Home 0

The Tigers claimed their second win of the season in the opening round of the Brantley Tournament as they posted a 1-0 win. Elba moved ahead 1-0 in the top of the third when Devin Jackson led off with a single and later scored on an RBI double by Colton Vaughan as the Tigers pulled even at 1-1 in the bottom of the first, while the Tigers plated three runs in the second behind the hitting of Devin Jackson and Justin McLaughlin to grab a 4-1 advantage. Elba's lead went to 5-1 in the bottom of the fifth when an RBI double by Justin Mallory and the Tigers held on late to escape with the 5-3 win. Sandarius Reed, Justin Mallory and Devin Jackson all had 1 hit and scored 1 run to lead Elba at the plate, while Justin McLaughlin, Colton Vaughan and Kyle Pope added 1 hit, apiece. Justin McLaughlin pitched four innings and allowed one run on 5 hits with five strike-outs to put the win in the books, while Dylan McCollough and Bradley Wilson both pitched one inning in relief.

Elba 5 Brantley 3

The Tigers pulled ahead early and made it hold up as they posted a 5-3 win over the Brantley Bulldogs. Dylan McCollough was hit by a pitch and later scored on an RBI single by Colton Vaughan as the Tigers pulled even at 1-1 in the bottom of the first, while the Tigers plated three runs in the second behind the hitting of Devin Jackson and Justin McLaughlin to grab a 4-1 advantage. Elba's lead went to 5-1 in the bottom of the fifth when an RBI double by Justin Mallory and the Tigers held on late to escape with the 5-3 win. Sandarius Reed, Justin Mallory and Devin Jackson all had 1 hit and scored 1 run to lead Elba at the plate, while Justin McLaughlin, Colton Vaughan and Kyle Pope added 1 hit, apiece. Justin McLaughlin pitched four innings and allowed one run on 5 hits with five strike-outs to put the win in the books, while Dylan McCollough and Bradley Wilson both pitched one inning in relief.

Elba 5 Luverne 0

The Tigers claimed their second win in the Brantley JV Tournament by blanking Luverne 5-0. Elba took advantage of four walks, one error and a two-out double by Bradley Wilson to jump out to a 4-0 first inning lead, while the Tigers added a fifth run in the second inning when Dylan McCollough drew a one-out single.

Elba 1 Zion Chapel 0

The Tigers scored the game's only run in the fourth inning in a thrilling 1-0 win over the Zion Chapel Rebels. The Tigers stranded two runners on base in the opening three innings, but got the scoreboard in the fourth when Colton Vaughan led off with a single and later scored on an RBI single by Andrew Head. Zion Chapel put runners on base in each of the opening four innings, but had two out to stop the rally by Elba catcher Justin Mallory and watched as the Tigers posted the 1-0 win. Justin Mallory, Colton Vaughan

and Andrew Head all had 1 hit to lead Elba, while Justin McLaughlin picked up the win on mound as he pitched five scoreless innings and allowed one hit, with two strike-outs.

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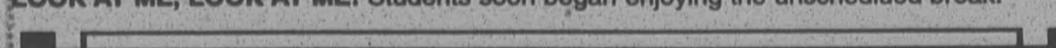
STUDENTS, TEACHERS AND STAFF await word from Elba firefighters on what caused the fire alarm in the Elba Elementary School to sound last Thursday at noon. It was determined to be a false alarm and classes resumed, much to the dismay of many happy students.



STUDENTS WERE EATING when the fire alarm sounded. They followed the training of many drills and immediately stood and fled out of the lunchroom and into the parking lot.



WAY UP ON THE HILL! Some classes watched the action from the safety of the hillside as firefighters inspected the school building for any sign of a fire last Thursday afternoon.



LOOK AT ME, LOOK AT ME! Students soon began enjoying the unscheduled break.

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IT WAS A GAME of posing for the camera as teachers tried to keep order while awaiting the all clear signal that would allow all to return to their respective classes. However teachers were not so sure the excitement could be controlled in the two hours of school left that day.



Zackery Coward, an Elba Kindergarten student had his noon meal interrupted but is prepared to return. He brought his unopened plastic fork packet with him to the cafeteria outside the school.



Staff and Elba firefighter ponder the fire alarm problem

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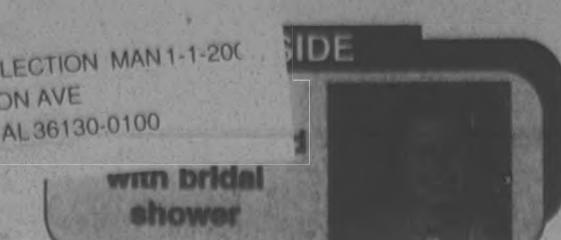
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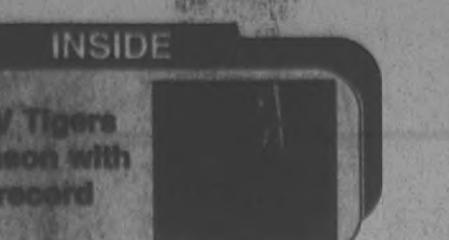
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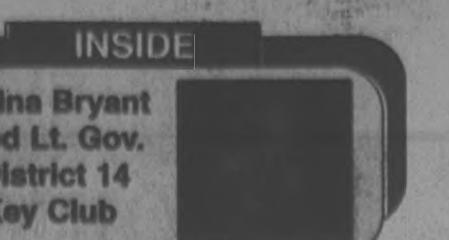
WITH BRIDAL
SHOWER



Elba JV Tigers
end season with
12-3 record



Christine Bryant
elected Lt. Gov.
for District 14
of Key Club



The Elba Clipper

Volume 109, Number 41

50 Cents

Elba, Alabama

Thursday, March 23, 2006

1 Section, 14 Pages

During County BOE meeting

Superintendent presents draft of proposed school calendar for 2006-07 school term

by Linda Hodge, Editor

During the regular monthly meeting Thursday, March 9, Coffee County Board of Education members received a draft of the proposed school calendar for school term 2006-07.

Superintendent Dr. Linda Ingram quickly noted that some changes had to be made to the proposed calendar as schools will be increasing the number of instructional days from 175 to 180 for the 2006-07 school term. Also, she said the Coffee County School System most likely will have to start the term a few days later than normal because of the arrival of test scores from the state.

In the proposed calendar, Ingram said the school term will probably begin Aug. 7th. In the past, school has been out for the entire week of Thanksgiving.

With Spring Break set to begin the day after the March 9th board meeting, the super-

tendent had a promising report regarding the renovation work at New Brockton High School.

Ingram said a good deal of progress has been made in the past few weeks. She said contractor work to be finished by April 15th.

Ingram said other projects also are progressing including roof work at Zion Chapel Elementary School.

In regards to personnel issues, board members unanimously approved the following:

• Accept the resignation of Dorothy Little, teacher at New Brockton Elementary School, effective the last day of her current contract.

• Continue the employment ofaphne Cook as an ARI regional reading coach trainer for the

Please See BOE, Page 14

ARW ARCM employees recognized for safety

Elba Chip Mill marks 14 years with no injuries

Employees of Alabama River Woodlands (ARW) and Alabama River Chip Mills (ARCM) were recognized for outstanding safety achievement during a company-wide meeting and luncheon held Tuesday, March 14, at the ARW office in Clanton.

Alabama River Woodlands President Richard Koger commended employees for their safety performance and congratulated the group for its "commitment, dedication and attitude that made this accomplishment possible."

Koger challenged employees, stating, "We want to celebrate the safe work practices you have demonstrated as well as the fact that we have avoided a serious injury for so long, but we must remember that there is always room to improve. We must keep our focus now and in the future on thinking through each task involved in our jobs to avoid all injuries."

Alabama River Woodlands employees at Clanton have worked over 11 years without a lost time injury. Employees at the Demopolis Woodard and Elba Chip Mill facilities have remained accident-free for 14 years. Employees at the Jackson's Gap Chip Mill have a 6-year safety record.

During the meeting, Koger presented each ARW and

ARCM employee with a gift certificate valued at \$50.

"I am extremely proud of our employees for reaching these safety milestones," Koger declared. "The commitment to work safely every day has earned our company one of the best safety records in our industry. I challenge you to continue forward and to practice safety

daily at home as well as in the job."

Alabama River Woodlands and Alabama River Chip Mills are owned by Parsons & Whittemore of New York and serve as the wood suppliers to the two pulp mills and newsprint plant located at the Alabama River Mill Complex at Clanton in Monroe County.

Chamber officials said the event was an overwhelming success and construction of the enhanced welcome tool recently was completed at the Hwy. 87 entranceway at Clanton.

Kaye Whitworth, executive director of the Elba Chamber of Commerce, announced this

week that the chamber is planning a second "Dining for Signs" event for Thursday, May 18, at the Elba Recreation Center, Clanton Avenue, at 6:30 p.m.

"We had a great response from the first "Dining for Signs" and look forward to this upcoming event," Whitworth said. "Plans are to use funds raised through this effort to construct a welcome sign on the Highway 84 East entranceway in Elba."

As before, tables will be sponsored by different members of the community during "Dining for Signs." The event will include a catered meal and entertainment.

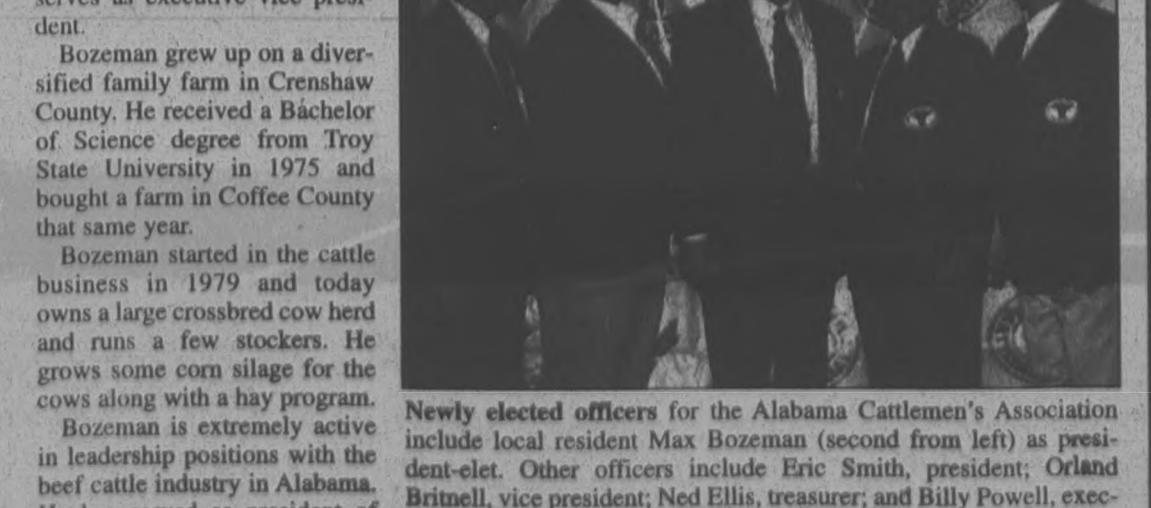
For more information regarding "Dining for Signs," contact the Elba Chamber of Commerce office at 897-3125.

ATTENTION! There will be a meeting Thursday, March 30, at 6 p.m. at New Ebenezer Baptist Church (Curtis community) for the purpose of starting a Volunteer Fire Department in the Curtis Community. Anyone living within a 5-mile radius of the water well is asked to attend this meeting. Ray Mott of the Alabama Forestry Commission will be at the meeting to help organizers get started. For questions, call 897-2583.

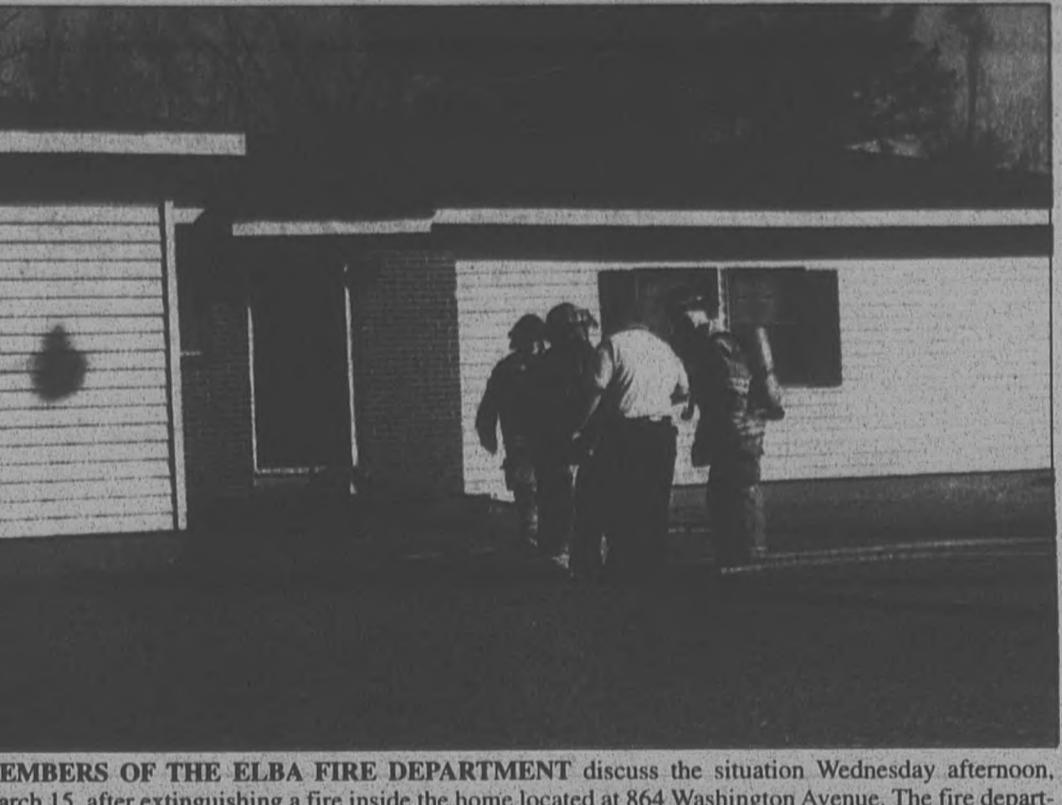
THE COFFEE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY has announced that qualifying for election year 2006 is underway and will continue up until Friday, April 7, at 3 p.m. Anyone interested in qualifying as a Democrat for any of the upcoming elections may contact Eddie Vaughan at (334) 897-2273, ext. 209 or (334) 897-0395 anytime.

ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL INC. OF JACK will sponsor the Future Little Miss, Little Miss, Junior Miss and Miss Zion Chapel pageants Saturday, April 1, at the Zion Chapel High School auditorium. Future Little Miss and Little Miss will begin at 8 p.m. Junior Miss and Miss will begin at 6:30 p.m. All area queens are invited to attend.

THE SOUTHEAST ALABAMA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION will hold its monthly meeting Thursday, April 6, at the Coffee County Farm Center. Anyone interested in the honeybees is welcome to attend. For more information please call Elizabeth Whitaker at (334) 894-2077.



Newly elected officers for the Alabama Cattlemen's Association include local resident Max Bozeman (second from left) as president-elect. Other officers include Eric Smith, president; Orland Britnell, vice president; Ned Ellis, treasurer; and Billy Powell, executive vice president.



MEMBERS OF THE ELBA FIRE DEPARTMENT discuss the situation Wednesday afternoon, March 15, after extinguishing a fire inside the home located at 864 Washington Avenue. The fire department was dispatched to the scene of the structure fire at approximately 3:37 p.m. last Wednesday afternoon. They were able to quickly gain control of the fire and put it out before it spread across the home. Also responding to the scene were units from the Elba Police Department, Coffee County EMS and the City of Elba Electric Department. The scene above shows firefighters discussing the situation with Chief Danny Jordan as fans were being used to extract smoke from the residence.

Sen. Holley/Rep. Spicer speak at Legislative Breakfast held in Elba

by Linda Hodge, Editor

Senator Holley said the current legislative session was about to enter its fourth month. He said it had been a relative smooth session.

Holley said the education budget had passed the House and Senate.

"I believe it's the best education budget I've ever voted for," said Holley. "We were able to do a lot of good things for public education."

Through the education budget, Spicer said legislators

Please See B'FAST, Page 3

Elba Chamber of Commerce plans "Dining for Signs" event

by Linda Hodge, Editor

City of Elba.

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Kaye Whitworth, executive

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NEWS BRIEF

The Coffee County Elba Division Grand Jury met in regular session Thursday, March 16.

The Grand Jury inquired into a total of 37 cases handing down 33 indictments with 29 being felonies and four being misdemeanors. The Grand Jury also returned four no bills.

Arrangements for indictment handed down by this Grand Jury are scheduled for Thursday, April 13, at the Elba Courthouse.